

L'Observateur

L'été perdu 2020



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L'avant-propos de la rédactrice

by editor Marisa Ikert

Fellow Canoe Islanders, I have a question: Did you ever get home from a session at camp and feel so bummed to be back in the “real world” that you attempted to recreate camp’s schedule as closely as possible for the rest of the summer?

That was me when I got home from my first session at Canoe Island, at age 14. After a rough middle school experience where I struggled to fit in, I went to Canoe Island not knowing anyone (or any French) and returned with a new sense of confidence, new friends who became pen pals, and a new passion for French language and culture. I was so enamored with the routines of camp that I started setting my alarm for 7:45 every day, even though I’m a total night owl by nature. I remember singing the French and Canadian anthems in the shower, respecting camp mealtimes and “*repos*,” and spending afternoons making *gâteau au yaourt* and other concoctions from cuisine class.



Since our country went into lockdown in March, many of us have been reeling from the disruption of our most meaningful connections and routines. For those of us planning to travel back to Canoe Island and reunite with friends there, not being able to do so this year has been one of our biggest losses. I can hardly believe that this is my first summer since 2007, when I started as a camper, that I haven’t made it back to the San Juans at all. Our yearly routines can become just as important as our daily ones, and I’ve always found that even my shortest visits back to camp stood out as the most grounding and invigorating moment of each year, reminding me of what matters most in life.

So when Margaret reached out to me about reprising my role as journal editor to compile a 2020 *Observateur*, I was so thrilled to have a role in the community again, even a virtual one. Having an excuse to reach out to new and old camp friends, in an effort to bring everyone together through this unique “time capsule” publication, brought an extra dose of joy into my own quarantined life.

The variety of responses I received, from current campers to alumni from many years back, was a beautiful reminder of how strong our community continues to be and how deeply connected people still feel to CIFC, even if they haven’t been back in years. I was so tickled to receive my first email from Christian, who had been a counselor 30 years before me but whose love of camp was still just as strong (see page 8). It was so fun to exchange Canoe Island memories with him and discover that he lived in the same town where I studied abroad. As a music lover, I’ve been so moved by the power of music to bring together Canoe Islanders both in person and virtually, from Creighton’s weekly Inspiration Point singalong on Facebook (see page 13), to the way my friends Thomas and Sam continue to bond over music and outdoor adventures, on and off Canoe (see page 14). I cracked up at Melody’s fun initiative to recreate classic movie clips with fellow campers (see page 11), reminisced about my wonderful visit with Isabel in Bordeaux before the pandemic radically changed her semester abroad (see page 7), and drew

1 inspiration from all of your reflections on what “*l’été perdu de 2020*” has meant to you (see page 15).

Marisa



Many alumni and campers found themselves poring over CIFIC swag and souvenirs this summer, reflecting on their time spent on Canoe Island and what camp has meant to them. Laura Grove, alumna from the 1980s and longtime CIFIC volunteer, sent us this photo of her CIFIC memorabilia.

Comptez-vous, s'il vous plaît!

When French Camp went on pause in 2020, we mourned the loss of a summer together on the island that all of us had been anticipating for months. Campers and staff alike keenly missed this community and the memories we would have shared. We eagerly await our reunion on Canoe Island.

Marina Allen	Ansley Eisler	Ada Ledford	Julianna Radza-Frei	Dylan Wong
Luke Anderson	Claire Erickson	Tilly Ledford	Tristan Rahmel	Jordan Woodard
Cassidy Armstrong	Arabella Everitt	Owen Longano	Devi Ray	Michaela Workman
Luna Bailey	Noelle Fandel	Kieran Lussier	Jitu Ray	Elliott Yaroslavsky
Finnegan Batz	Anna Feeney	Kaia Ly	Sophia Rehusch	Simona Yaroslavsky
Alex Baumgartner	Max Field	Lillian Mack	Cienna Richardson	Avi Zeifman
Raffaele Beebe	Grant Fitterer	Lucas Mack	Hayes Richardson	Isabel Alexander, counselor
Henry Belin	Lorelei Fitterer	Ella MacKenzie	Elena Roel	Claire Arensmeyer, counselor
Sebastien Belin	Devon Flannery	Clara MacLise	Elisa Roel	Flore Bardet, counselor
Grace Bell	Lucia Frank	Ryan Masterman	Otis Root	Willa Barnett, caretaker/instructor
Vivian Bell	Brinn Fyke	Ethan McCrady	Isla Rose	Susannah Birch, assistant
Amethyst Bernard	Keira Fyke	Simone McGraw	Leo Rosenblood Cappe	Elle Boudreau, assistant
Marin Bernard	Maylie Gardner	Wiley McGraw	Alden Rosenfield	Claire Bricknell, assistant
Skylar Blair	Rosie Gavin	Juliette McKenney	Roman Rothstein	Sarah Brinkman, medical professional
Nathanael Bloch	Alicia Gmeiner	Jasper Miller	Gabrielle Saint-Loubert-Bié	Leah Burian, kitchen staff
Genevieve Blum	Emma Gonzalez	Anna Miller	Pauline Sandoz	Emily Cady, assistant
Caroline Bricknell	Everett Gough	Scarlett Miller	Lark Sayers	Jonathan Costello, assistant
Beatriz Broadfoot	Cameron Grant	Sebastian Misner	Kaitlyn Schnitzius	Stella Gardner, assistant
Violet Brose	Asriel Haines	Sully Misner	Romie Sela	Lily Gates, counselor
Jasper Brown	Solianna Halabisky	Caitlin Mochan	Sintayehu Shannon	Meredith Gavin, assistant
Charlie Buckman	Genevieve Hammatt	August Moore	Elliott Shea	Else Gerber, assistant
Alida Burt	Nick Hausheer	Fenn Morrow	Martin Shea	Alena Harris, chef
Bear Canning	Alicia Havens	Lucia Moscola	Lily Sherman	Monrique Hennig, counselor
Bb Canning	Adelaide Hawthorne	Siena Mrazik	Jack Shoemaker	Skijler Hutson, counselor
Annika Canton	Caroline Heldfond	Alexandra Murdoch-Oxorn	Chenoa Siegel-Prather	Marisa Ikert, French specialist
Rose Carmichael	Henry Heldfond	Anders Myette	Arnav Singhal	Will Kier, caretaker
Talia Carmichael	Thomas Herink	Ethan Myette	Cannon Smithers	Wiley Kohler, assistant
Baker Celis	Marina Herrin	Dewey Nakhuda	Hans Sprenger	Lisa Longano, medical professional
Ingrid Celis	Julia Herron-Watts	Ruby Nakhuda	Maeve Sprenger	Nicole Lyons, assistant
Tayla Chang	Lamai Hons	Bernardo Nascimento	Otto Sprenger	Colette Mayer, assistant
Isobel Chi	Aidan Hopkins	Atticus Nauman-Montana	Lillian Steiner	Lucy McGown, assistant
Nirja Churi	Kyle Hopkins	Zoe Neil	Nuala Stenson	Charlotte Megret, assistant director
Jason Clark	Matteo Horvat	Nicolas Nevius	Alice Stern	Sara Meyers, head counselor
Scarlett Collins	Brij Howard-Sarin	Andrew Nikitin	Hazel Stern	Ali Morrow, outdoor educator
Quinn Collins	Lucy Hull	Kaitlyn O'Neill	Karina Stoddard	Julie Pheline, French specialist
Caroline Combs	Maya Ito-Chihaia	Jackson Patton	Soren Sugalski	Justin Saint-Loubert-Bié, counselor
Sonny Corbin	Dakota Jett	Charlotte Peng	Sebastian Ter Meulen	Margaret Schafer, camp director
Theodore Amaral Crowe	Mira Johnson	Clara Peng	Lulu Thomas	Glenda Schuh, medical professional
Isabella Cuyler	Sylvia Johnson	Charles Perillat	Sarinah True	Neil Smith, voyage leader
Roman Czaplá	Sándor Jonas	Aeden Peterson	Grant Tucker	Ben Straub, executive director
George Davis	Stella Joseph	Eleonore Petitjean	Isaac Tucker	Kate Taylor, assistant
Sadie Davis-Suskind	Felix Kachadourian	Edward Pierpont	Katarina Wagner	Abdelkader Temani, counselor
Olivia Delaune	Eleni Kauffman	Will Pierpont	Merrill Walther	Julian Tiffay, program coordinator
Melody Drewfs	Gili Kimchi	Chloe Pottier	Jayden Wang	Madeleine Treneer, counselor
Max Drucker	Silas Kohler	Josephine Pottier	Keira Ward	Gaël Vidal, counselor
Vilia Duerr-Cardwell	Jonnika Kwon	Nia Price	Maggie White	Andrei Whyte, assistant
Cooper Edelstein	Makenna Lausier	Elyse Radza-Frei	Keely Williams	Tomi Woodard, assistant

Les arts

During the pandemic, we spent a lot of time looking, learning, and connecting through screens.

Some campers dabbled in *les arts* via Zoom by making *pâte à sel* with Charlotte Megret.

Enjoy this recipe for a quick playdough along with these sketches by alumna Nicole Removski.

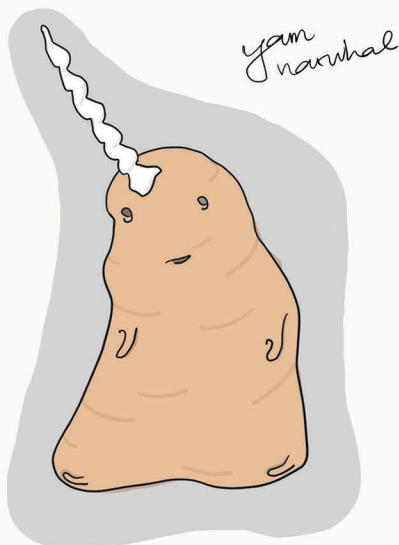
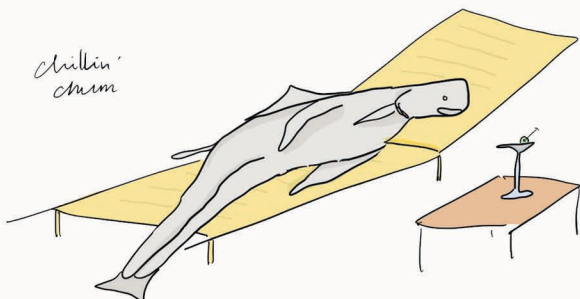


Recette de la pâte à sel (pas pour manger !)

Ingrédients:

- 1 verre de sel fin
- 2 verres de farine
- 1 verre d'eau tiède
- (Facultatif: des colorants alimentaires mélangés à l'eau)

- 1) Mélangez l'eau, la farine et le sel avec une cuillère puis à la main pour former une boule.
- 2) Créez vos petits objets!
- 3) Laissez sécher vos objets 24 heures puis cuire au four très doux (100 degrés C) jusqu'à ce que les objets sèchent.
- 4) Vous pouvez peindre vos objets !



by Nicole Removski

Les choses à raconter

Une année à l'étranger
by Sara Meyers

Salut de l'Australie! The past year of my life, since I left Canoe Island in 2019, has been a whirlwind of ups and downs: exceeded expectations; profound insights; dazzling landscapes; and intense uncertainty, stress, and sadness.

After leaving Canoe Island after camp, fellow counselor Monrique and I went to India. In many ways, India is the opposite of Canoe. Canoe summers are mild and dry; southern India is hot and humid. Canoe is peaceful and generally quiet (although it depends on which campers are present!); India is a shock to the senses—so many colors, sounds, and smells. It was overwhelming, yet refreshing. In India, Monrique and I completed our month-long yoga teacher training program. I feel so grateful to have been able to have this experience. It has made me a more open and positive person, and more able to handle difficult times that life brings. And, of course, I can teach yoga now!



I have been in Perth, Australia for about a year now. I am thrilled to have been able to spend time in this beautiful country filled with laid-back people, and to have still been here when COVID-19 hit. Because of Perth's isolated location, as well as the relative competence of the Australian government, our lockdown was minimal and the virus was well contained, especially in Western Australia. Australian immigration has been generous: they gave me an extra nine months of tourist visa, so I'm able to stay until February 2021.

I feel extremely lucky to have been outside of the US for COVID-19. I feel for everyone back home, and at times, I've felt a bit guilty. I have not experienced what you are all going through. I've never felt anxiety at leaving the house, and I've never even worn a mask. I can't even imagine what it would be like to be a worker, a parent, or a high school student missing out on so much right now. I admire you all for your strength and perseverance during this difficult time.

A year without Canoe Island French Camp is devastating, as any of us who have spent time on this magical island can understand. Canoe Island is a breath of fresh air. It has helped me to realize what is really and truly important in life. I recently finished the book *Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression—and the Unexpected Solutions* by Johann Hari. I now realize why many of us feel so happy when we are together on Canoe Island, often feeling happier and more complete than during our "normal lives." In the book, Johann discusses nine causes of depression and anxiety, and what we, as a society, can do to combat them. Three of the causes are disconnection from people, disconnection from the natural world, and disconnection from meaningful work. On Canoe Island, we spend our days building friendships and community with others, without having to stop every five minutes to stare down at a small screen. We spend most of our time outdoors, in a beautiful place, not only

5 surrounded by nature, but actively taking time to learn about and appreciate the natural world. Furthermore, no work I have done has felt as meaningful as working on Canoe.

I'm not a homebody (a super fun word in French, by the way: *casanier/casanière*). I like moving around the world, traveling, and living in other countries. I don't plan on "settling down" somewhere and staying there for the rest of my life. At least not anytime soon; that's just not who I am. There are too many places in the world to live. Living in a country enables you to experience that place so much more deeply and fully than a two-week visit. I know I am extremely privileged in being able to do this, and I am super grateful to my family and everyone who has made this possible. I am also grateful for Canoe Island for being a place that I can always come back to. No matter where I am in the world, I have a home on Canoe Island. Merci, Canoe, Margaret and Ben, Charlotte my ultimate role model, and everyone who has worked so hard to make this place so special. I have been missing you so much, and I can't wait to come home again!

Les classes de français

CIFC campers kept their French skills sharp this summer by participating in online French classes with Charlotte and by watching short videos called "*Charlotte dans le sud*." As in classes on Canoe Island, Charlotte encouraged campers to learn and practice "*les mots du jour*" from the videos. Catch up with this series on CIFC's YouTube page!



Les mots du jour

Débutants:

- le vélo (bike, cycling)
- ici (here)
- un marché (a market)
- un poisson (a fish)
- le pain (bread)

Moyens:

- bonne journée, au revoir! (have a good day, bye!)
- faire de la randonnée (hiking)
- la fête nationale (the national holiday)
- une canne à pêche (a fishing rod)
- monter/descendre (go up/go down)
- on pagaie, on pagaie!
- (we paddle, we paddle!)

Avancés:

- la vitrine (the shop window)
- un terrier (a burrow)
- acheter des produits saisonniers (buy seasonal products)
- ça mord ? (are any fish biting?)
- debout sur les pédales (standing on the pedals)

La culture française

by Isabel Alexander

To the extended CIFIC community,

I'm sure all of you are missing camp this summer, and I am as well. I was especially excited for this summer on Canoe because I spent spring of this year studying abroad in France and was excited to share my experiences with all of you during culture, cuisine, and language classes. In the end, COVID dramatically changed the course of my time abroad, but I'd still like to share a bit about what France was like—both before and during the pandemic—and what it was like to experience this spring across two different countries.

When I arrived in France in January, I spent most of my time exploring Bordeaux and getting to know my host family. I took all my classes at a local university and traveled around the region when I could. I enjoyed a new sense of freedom, improved my French conversation skills, and discovered new aspects of French culture. Even before COVID, France was in the midst of a politically charged moment. Every weekend, I witnessed protestors fill the streets and block public transportation. A few of my professors were also on strike and sometimes they canceled my classes. I still loved this part of my time abroad, though, and highly recommend visiting Bordeaux if you ever get the chance, as it is a beautiful city.



After only three months abroad, everything began to change faster than I would have thought possible. About a week after I returned from Spring Break, President Macron announced the closure of French schools and universities, and my abroad program was suspended. Nearly all of my American friends both in France and elsewhere decided to return home. I also considered returning to the U.S., but because I felt so safe and welcome with my host family, I decided to stay.

When President Macron announced an extremely strict country-wide lockdown, my host family decided we'd temporarily relocate to Hossegor, a small town in the southwest of France globally renowned for its surfing. During the spring and summer seasons, locals and tourists alike normally enjoy the beautiful beaches and lake. I spent a total of eight weeks in Hossegor and during my stay, the streets were practically empty, the beaches were closed, and the lake remained empty. The French lockdown was shockingly severe, but French citizens remained largely respectful of the rules. Each time I left the house, I was required to complete a form with my name, birthday, address, date, time, and reason for going outside. If I went on a walk or run, I was only allowed one hour per day, and was forbidden from wandering farther than a kilometer away from the house. Police frequently patrolled the streets enforcing the rules and I was stopped on several occasions.

Despite the restrictions and near-endless stream of bad news related to the pandemic, I'm grateful for the time I spent with my host family. We found plenty of ways to stay busy during the lockdown and I feel that those weeks in Hossegor were actually when I learned the most about French language and culture. We'd chat about French and American society, cook dinners together, and alternate watching movies in French and English.

After eight weeks, the government lifted the lockdown and I knew my extraordinary time in France was drawing to a close. Ultimately, my six months abroad were completely different from what I had anticipated—I even ended up spending more days in Hossegor than in Bordeaux—but it was also unforgettable and wonderful in so many ways. In this way, my time abroad was not so unique. I'd encourage all CIFIC campers to consider studying abroad; for me it was one of the most incredible experiences of my life! I'd especially recommend programs where you live with a host family, as that allowed me to connect with French culture and society on a much deeper level. I cannot wait to return to Canoe after this crazy year and see old and new friends again! À bientôt!

Loin des yeux, près du cœur

Did you know that CIFIC used to have a “Christmas in France” session theme? Former counselor Christian Sigué shed some light on this beloved tradition, sharing this photo with us from July 25, 1982. This moment, and that summer, represent some of Christian's happiest memories, he explained: “There I was the Père Noël (I played a slightly tough one then, I remember, still forgiven by the presents he brought). I received [the photos] years after from my fellow counselor colleagues and campers, in remembrance of the great time we have shared and keep treasuring carefully.”

Christian also recalled how his time as a counselor went on to shape the rest of his life: “I was to start my military service a couple of months after I came back to home from Canoe Island (I even tried then to negotiate from the French authorities that they should better leave me in the



USA while I was on the spot for any civilian mission, yet in vain). Then I entered into various works as an export assistant, an export advisor, a training director, before I started a little company on my own... and looking back at the ‘good old times’ I can now consider my Canoe period as the most determining time in my life. It did help me making the best choices I could, after it. So, merci, Canoe! Thanks to the great souls, whom I have met and worked, played with there too.”



Christian and fellow counselor Claire Kilcup enjoy a traditional Galette des Rois during a reunion in Nantes, January 2019.

La cuisine

We missed breaking bread together in Le Maxim's this summer and we longed for cooking classes in Le Ritz. During quarantine, some campers participated in *classe de cuisine* avec Charlotte. Here are two recipes that campers tried at home this year, as well as photos of dishes from this summer.

Tarte d'été

Ingrédients pour la pâte

- 1 oeuf
- 100g de sucre (1/2 cup)
- 200g de farine (1 3/4 cups)
- 100g de beurre (1/4 cup + 3 tbsps)

Ingrédients pour la garniture

- 1 oeuf
- 100g de sucre (1/2 cup)
- 125g de poudre d'amande (1 cup + 2 tbsps)
- 40g de beurre (just under 3 tbsps)
- 3 pêches (could also use pêches au sirop or equivalent, or other summer fruit you may find: abricots, cerises, framboises...)

Recette

La pâte sablée : Casser l'oeuf en séparant la moitié du blanc. Battre le reste de l'oeuf avec le sucre. Incorporer la farine en une seule fois et sabler du bout des doigts. Ajouter le beurre en pétrissant à la main. Former une boule et réserver 30 minutes au réfrigérateur.

Préchauffer le four à 200 degrés Celsius.

Sortir la pâte du frigo et la foncer dans un moule à tarte avec les mains.

Les pêches : Les passer sous l'eau rapidement, les couper, enlever le noyau puis faire des tranches pas trop fines. Réserver.

La crème : Mélanger l'oeuf et le sucre, ajouter les amandes et le beurre. Verser sur la pâte sablée.

Disposer les tranches de pêches et enfourner à 200° C. Lorsque la crème est gonflée et dorée, la tarte est cuite. BON APPÉTIT !





Omelette au fromage et salade méditerranéenne

Ingrédients (pour 4 personnes)

2 tomates
 ½ concombre
 ½ poivron
 Basilic frais
 2 cuillères à soupe de yaourt
 2 cuillères à soupe d'huile d'olive
 2 cuillères à soupe de jus de citron
 Sel, poivre
 (facultatif: des olives, des noix, des graines...)
 6 oeufs
 100ml de lait
 75g de fromage en cube (cheddar mature, comté...)
 Herbes de provence
 Sel, poivre

Recette

Préparer la salade: couper tous les légumes en cubes dans un bol. Ajouter les ingrédients de la sauce salade. Mélanger !

Mettre la salade au frigo.

Casser les oeufs dans un bol et battre. Ajouter le lait, le fromage en cube, le sel, le poivre et les herbes.

Faire chauffer la poêle à feu vif pendant 2 minutes.

Ajouter un peu d'huile et baisser à feu moyen.

Ajouter le mélange d'oeufs et laisser cuire sans toucher pendant quelques minutes. Vérifier que les bords n'accrochent pas avec un spatule. Quand les bords sont bien cuits et le dessous bien cuit aussi, plier l'omelette en deux sur elle-même. Laisser cuire encore quelques minutes, selon vos préférences.

Servir la salade avec l'omelette et un peu de pain. BON APPETIT!

Le théâtre

Camper Melody Drewfs recreated some CIBC magic this summer by organizing a virtual theatre experience. Campers and alumni performed a few clips and funny scenes from "Singin' in the Rain" (Camp Director Margaret's favorite musical!) via Zoom. Be sure to catch the performance on YouTube! Melody also created the following quiz.

The quiz is somewhat satirical, and it makes fun of online quizzes. I made this quiz have no "right" answer because the characters are rather trope-y. So I revealed the trope flaws in this quiz to make sure people felt there wasn't a right answer and got to know the characters better! Remember not to take the quiz personally and have fun!



Which "Singin' in the Rain" Character Are You?

1. If asked to pick a hat, which would you choose?
 - a. A fluorescent orange bowler hat.
 - b. A flamboyant floral hot-pink cartwheel hat!
 - c. A modest-looking mushroom hat.
 - d. I want my scalp to be naked.
2. Name one of the following crowd-pleasers you would do for a talent show.
 - a. SING!
 - b. Lip-synching, my voice is terrible.
 - c. Dance, I feel confident in that skill.
 - d. Use my comedy to make 'em laugh!
3. Favorite camp activity?
 - a. I live for Le théâtre!
 - b. La cuisine, only the ones who cooked the food can eat the food.
 - c. La nature, it allows me to think and teaches me practical skills.
 - d. Le journal, I can write quizzes that can challenge people.



4. You are asked to speak French during French class. What do you do?

- a. I fumble through and hope I did it right...
- b. I do and speak what I want how I want!
- c. I say what the counselors tell me to, correctly, and nothing else.
- d. I do what the counselors order me to... but I flex my French.

5. Favorite animal on Canoe?

- a. The dogs!
- b. The birds.
- c. Marge.
- d. The sea life!

6. Most ideal friend qualities?

- a. Funny, but sensible.
- b. Someone to confide in, and who will keep what I say confidential.
- c. A practical, punctual, and serious person.
- d. Somebody with integrity, smarts, and a great sense of humor.

7. One of your colleagues insults you right to your face! How do you respond?

- a. I will shrug it off but think about it later.
- b. How appalling! I shall ruin their jobs and relationships with my prestige.
- c. I make a witty quip to get them off my back. I have more important things to do, after all.
- d. Laugh it off! No need for negative vibes!

8. Favorite genre of music?

- a. Nothing beats classic jazz.
- b. Pop for life!
- c. R and B. It is relaxing and can really bring you into the atmosphere of the song.
- d. Cartoons seem nice...

9. What is your favorite taste?

- a. Salt, it makes any meal good.
- b. Sugar is my favorite.
- c. I like bitterness!
- d. Spice makes everything interesting!



Mostly As: you are Don Lockwood! You are flamboyant, you love musicals, and you are an okay friend. Outside of the theater, you are very quiet, but you have very good social skills from acting. Sometimes you get hung up on things that happened in the past and you need help repairing your relationships. Your coping mechanism for your problems is that you try fixing things, even when they do not want to be fixed. You need to learn how to recognize and get out of a toxic relationship.



Mostly Bs: you are Lina Lamont! You love anything sparkly and popular, something to match your aesthetic and to follow all the latest trends. However, inside you are experiencing a serious identity crisis and you hold too many grudges. You have no idea how to make actual friends, since you rule with fear and materialism. Your coping mechanism for your problems is to collect more items to make you stand out; in other words, you indulge your greed. You need to start prioritizing people over stuff.



Mostly Cs: you are Kathy Selden! You are a serious and practical person who prefers reading over socializing. You are not very funny, and you do not like joking around. You are aloof and jaded, and you absolutely hate practical jokes. You push away people who want to get closer to you and people hate you for that. Your coping mechanism is to isolate yourself to not involve anyone in your problems, even if they can help. You need to learn how to have a sense of humor and how to let people into your life.



Mostly Ds: you are Cosmo Brown! You are a person with an amazing sense of humor, and you know how to charm someone. You sometimes do not know how to take things seriously and you have a habit of upstaging people in their serious moments. You are hiding a longing for your childhood behind all the jokes, but you cannot express it. Your coping mechanism is to make jokes to laugh off the pain of current events. You need to learn to adjust and to be more serious.

La musique

"Inspiration Point on Lockdown" by Creighton Hofeditz

I came up with the idea for a virtual Inspiration Point singalong out of moderate personal desperation. I, like most other people, was suddenly under shelter-in-place orders and trying to find ways to connect with the outside world. I thought about all the various parts of my life where I felt like a part of something, and nothing came to mind more strongly than Canoe. I figured that there would at least be a few other people who might appreciate some of the old songs to hear when there wasn't much else to do, and it was a way for me to access some of the self-expression that was otherwise feeling hobbled. And so the Canoe Island Lockdown Singalong was born.



Never having done a Facebook Live video before, I had a bit of a learning curve, but eventually figured it out and created a setup that I'm still using more than four months later: three chairs, some stacked books to hold up my laptop, and the Canoe Island Songbook. Almost every Sunday at 11:00 Pacific Time (roughly Inspiration Point time), I've been playing Canoe songs for about 45 minutes.

It's been an incredible anchor point for me, but I've also been a little blown away by how much it means to

some people who listen week after week. The songs of Canoe were always one of the most important parts of camp for me, even before I took on the role of leading many of those songs, and it's been wonderful to see that reflected in other people. I've reconnected with old friends, worn every piece of Canoe gear I have, sung "Chevaliers de la Table Ronde" a cappella while banging on my dining room table... someone even tuned in to hear me play their request of "When I'm Sixty-Four" on the DAY OF THEIR WEDDING. But, as she said that day, "CIFC is my one true love."

As the quarantines of April and May moved into the explosion of protest, social unrest, and "reopening" of the summer, the character of the Singalong has shifted somewhat. More folks are out and about in some capacity, and the Sundays have lost some of what I'll call their celebratory urgency. All the same, they have been a grounding time for me, and as the times change the songs I (and we) sing seem to gain new resonance and layered meanings. I'm not sure how far into the fall I'll continue with the Singalong, but I'm so grateful for the thread of Canoe through this troubled year.

Last summer I rewrote the lyrics to "À la claire fontaine," speaking to the lasting and recurring impact of the island we all love. The lyrics are below, and the QR code will take you to a recording of the song, which I'm calling "Jamais." And if you haven't yet, I hope you'll stop in some Sunday for the Singalong!

"Jamais"

by Creighton Hofeditz, based on "À la claire fontaine"

How could I ever forget you;
you're there in my life for good.
You're there in the pictures that I keep,
you're there in my childhood.

CHORUS:

Il y a longtemps que je t'aime
Jamais je ne t'oublierai
So long that I have loved you,
Never to be swept away.

There were years when I measured my time out
in days that we spent apart
Till the summer could come
and heal all our broken hearts

CHORUS

How long have I sat in a circle
in the sun and sung songs with you?
And when it came time for the evening,
all the nights that we laughed through.

CHORUS

Like a word written on the ocean
Like a flower scattered on the breeze
You'd almost swear that it never really happened
But of course, it will always be

CHORUS (repeat)



"Les Champs-Élysées" dans la forêt by Thomas Bernardi and Sam Wolfson

Sam et moi, on s'est rencontrés en 2011, mais on n'est devenus de vrais amis qu'en 2013 quand on est venus tous les deux à la même session. Pendant cette année et les années qui ont suivi, on s'est rapprochés en faisant les sorties de la session des Voyageurs et en jouant aux spectacles Jacques Martin. Alors il nous semblait naturel de mettre les deux ensemble pour notre contribution au journal cette année. Voici notre interprétation des « Champs-Élysées » de Joe Dassin, faite en randonnée à deux pas du quasi-volcan, Glacier Peak.



Sam and I met at Session 2 in 2011 but didn't really become friends until 2013 when we both ended up at the same session again. During that and subsequent years we bonded during Voyageur session outings and Jacques Martin performances. So it only seemed fitting to combine music and outdoor exploration for our entry into this year's Journal! Enjoy our backcountry version of "Les Champs-Élysées," from the middle of the beautiful Glacier Peak Wilderness.



Point de l'Inspiration

What did you miss most about Canoe Island French Camp during this strange year?

"Seeing my Canoe friends, even out there in the real world." —Emily Hunter

"I missed the community: sitting around the campfire, eating together in the dining hall, putting on little performances during Jacques Martin. At a time when it's difficult to be close to people, the memories of when I could are particularly poignant." —Sam Wolfson

"The sunrises and sunsets on the island are incredible... sad to miss them this year." —Andrew Burgess

"Everything! Being on the island in the camp bubble, surrounded by friends, fun, and incredible food!" —Shelby Lee

"I look forward to seeing photos from each session's theme day! Seeing the creative interpretations of each theme and all the joyful faces will surely be missed this year." —Amanda Webber

"I miss seeing the energy of the campers on the CIFIC Instagram feed!" —Tracie Luthi

"The food, the scenery and the dogs." —Noelle Fandal

"The sense of community and the feeling of being a part of something larger than yourself. Canoe is an amazing and special place that helps me feel more like a part of the world." —Braden McGee

"This weirdly contradictory sense of freedom I always had on Canoe, despite being on a small island, and the camaraderie." —Nicolas Yviquel

"I missed reliving all my memories from long ago summers while following you all on Instagram!"
—Anonymous

"Francophone Fair during session 3" —Klara Messersmith

"The fresh breeze of the Salish Sea, the campfire on the beach with friends" —Amaury Coin

"I have not been on the island for a few years now, but the community that is constantly growing on the island is something I always miss!" —Tess Almquist

"I missed most the comfort and tranquility of Canoe. It always felt like a refuge from everything else." —Hazel Richards

What is your favorite memory involving Canoe Island French Camp?

"Trying to paint Joseph's face for Les Voyageurs Theme Day, whale sightings, Nathan Barnatt dances. Improvisational story nights." —Emily Hunter

"My tipi invented our own country ('Ismaland'), complete with a flag and an anthem, and we raised our own flag on the last day of camp." —Sam Wolfson

"Being able to come back as an assistant... It really is a new and rewarding way to experience Canoe!" —Andrew Burgess

"So hard to choose! Turning 13 at camp (session 4, 2012) was amazing! Marching in the 4th of July parade dressed as a mime was always fun, as was strawberry picking on Lopez or visiting the Friday Harbor farmers market! The best memories are probably from the banquet night and the final talent show. It was always a blast taking crazy photos all night, performing a wild act, and sneaking cheese back to the tipi. Oh, and dressing up for casino night!" —Shelby Lee

"Hard to pick, maybe powdered sugar exploding in my face, or seeing stars for the first time." —Melody Drewfs

"As a staff member, getting to see the transition of the island from its peaceful serenity in the spring (often with five or fewer of us on the island) to the bustling community created through the summer sessions, bursting with life!" —Amanda Webber

"Picking my daughter up after her first two-week session at Canoe. It rained most of the time, and I was so worried that she wasn't having a good time. When I picked her up, and asked her how it was on a scale of 1-10, she said 12. And could she go back next year to the three-week session? I love how Canoe captivates everyone who visits." —Tracie Luthi

"When a humpback whale was spotted nearby and I was able to go and see it (2015)." —Noelle Fandal

"Getting Connie and Joseph to let my twin and me swim to Shaw on Shaw Day along with two assistants. Then, upon getting to Shaw, finding out my twin got a mild hypothermia from the water, which got our whole tipi a dip in Connie and Joseph's hot tub!" —Braden McGee

"The day Eloise got so excited on the dock that she pushed Addie in the water." —Nicolas Yviquel

"So many! I have great memories of learning to make crepes, storming the Bastille, full island capture the flag, kayaking, seeing wildlife, trips to other islands. It was so long ago but I miss it a lot." —Anonymous

"Seeing orcas near Shaw Island." —Klara Messersmith

"Seeing orcas swimming right by the shore of Canoe Island." —Amaury Coin

"Sitting in the Maxim's with hot cocoa and playing Mao." —Wiley Zeta McGraw

"One of my favorite memories I have on Canoe Island was when the counselors did a Disney medley for Le Spectacle de Jacques Martin and we used Gator when he was a puppy as Simba in 'Circle of Life.'" —Tess Almquist

"It's simple, but either afternoons playing soccer or tetherball and the camaraderie that came with these activities." —Hazel Richards

What would you say to campers of the future who asked you what it was like to live through 2020?

"It's simultaneously boring and nerve-wracking. Being cautious about 'everyday' interactions with people is a really weird thing to get used to. Everything becomes a calculus of 'what is the risk of this interaction.' But the long and short is that I end up at home a lot of the time, mindlessly surfing the Internet, and wishing I could be doing something else, or be somewhere else. I really miss just being around people. Personally, I have a lot of time but little motivation to do anything. It really makes me appreciate all the freedom I had before the lockdown started. I'm looking forward to getting it back. It's not all bad, though—I've started exploring outdoors more readily than in the past, hiking, backpacking, and I'm planning some solo road trips. So, in a way, it's forcing me to explore new, creative ways to stave off the boredom." —Sam Wolfson

"It may be a hard year, but people have survived worse. We're gonna make it and next year will be even better than this year!" —Andrew Burgess

"Very frustrating, polarizing, and unpredictable. However, it makes you appreciate the little things and realize what's really important!" —Shelby Lee

"It was ALL online. Also, that the apocalypse was weird and involved a lot of sitting around."
—Melody Drewfs

"This year has given us all the chance to reflect on the path of our country, as well as the global community, and pushed us to stand clear and firm on the right side of history. Teaching my three-year-old son about my past mistakes and how I am changing, as well as introducing the complexities of living on indigenous land in a society in need of change, has been a hugely humbling experience and I can only imagine that upcoming seasons on Canoe Island will be inspired by this pivotal summer and more than ever it will be a place to come together to share, learn, and grow." —Amanda Webber

"It was the hardest and strangest time of my life. It strengthened my need for a community and made me realize that life today cannot be taken for granted." —Braden McGee

"It was as if your whole life had to be put on pause but you still had to deal with all of the responsibilities."
—Nicolas Yviquel

"2020 has not been pleasant, but it does remind me how precious my time at Canoe Island was. Remember everything you can and relive it when times are hard." —Anonymous

"It was hard but I learned a lot about myself through self-reflection." —Klara Messersmith

"It was a time to reflect on what actually matters, quite like the time you spend at CIBC even if you don't always realize it at the moment. Personally, it sometimes and somehow felt like an Inspiration Point moment without campers and staff sitting next to you." —Amaury Coin

"For me, 2020 was a wake-up call on how I treat others and how I treat myself. A big year of learning for everyone!" —Tess Almquist

"It's important to be able to create your own refuges or happy places in your head. Try to create your own imaginary Canoe Islands." —Hazel Richards

What message would you like to say to CIFIC, fellow campers, the future, or the world at large?

"We are one." —Karla (Heczko) DeMaio

"I loooove the garden idea, can't wait to visit it." —Emily Hunter

"We'll get through this. Stay patient. Soon enough we'll be singing songs together on Inspiration Point again. This too shall pass." —Sam Wolfson

"If there's only one upside to an epidemic it's likely that we now have all the time in the world to do our hobbies!" —Andrew Burgess

"Don't be afraid to make a fool out of yourself and step outside your comfort zone! Every day!" —Shelby Lee

"Don't forget to keep 'le coeur ouvert à l'inconnu'!" —Amanda Webber

"While we're calling this a lost summer, it's important to remember all the things that have happened. There are so many gains for us as individuals and as a global community to celebrate, big and small." —Hazel Richards

"CIFIC staff and volunteers, thank you for all of your year-round contributions. Camp would not be possible without you!" —Tracie Luthi

"If you're doing your best, that's all anyone can ask of you. Make sure you can take time for yourself."
—Braden McGee

"Goats are taking over everything. Good for you, goats." —Melody Drewfs

"There will always be big or small challenges in life. They should not be feared or avoided but they should always be welcomed as moments that help us grow and show to ourselves and the ones we care about who we want to be in this world. And also, you should never avoid indulging in baguette and cheese!" —Nicolas Yviquel

"I think that the community that we are all part of on Canoe Island is so special and everyone deserves to be a part of it. I hope that what we learn on Canoe Island we can bring back to our own personal lives and share that sense of family and safety to those around us on and off the island." —Tess Almquist

"Fingers crossed for an unforgettable 2021 summer at CIFIC and many more summers to come!" —Amaury Coin

"Thank you for keeping this wonderful place alive and prospering!" —Anonymous



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